

These young men wish to become Claretians and be the first members of the prospective project of Perpetual Adoration in Fátima as explained in the attached sheet concerning the four-fold aim of this project. A copy of this paper on the four-fold aim of the project has been submitted to Fr. João de Freitas Alves, C.M.F.

Que planos têm para o Futuro?

First of all, and above all, our group wishes to be Claretian 100%. When Father General, Anthony Leghisa, C.M.F.; before putting his signature on my petition of approval of the Claretians of Perpetual Adoration, asked me, "Do you want them to be a separate congregation from the Claretians?" I readily answered, "No, Fr. General, I want them to be Claretians, and only Claretians; but Claretians at their best, by living fully the spirit of Saint Anthony Mary Claret and by putting into practice, omni cura possibili, with all possible care, our Holy Constitutions and every holy tradition of the Congregation, which have been, sad to say, progressively either neglected or entirely forgotten.

The Most Reverend Fr. General stated that he likes this idea of Perpetual Adoration, but at the same time he respects the Provincials in each Province, in this case our Provincial in Portugal. He suggested that I should confer with the incumbent Portuguese Provincial, Fr. João de Freitas Alves, C.M.F., and see what we might arrange in regard to our plans for the future; and these plans, once agreed upon as a bilateral contract, be submitted to Fr. General for his final permission.

Let it be clear to all that we wish to be a part of this Portuguese Province, and therefore, submitted to the authority of the Portuguese Provincial, but with certain autonomy because of our semi-contemplative way of life of Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Perpetual Veneration of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We request that this autonomy be consistent and perpetual, and that the agreements made now between Fr. João de Freitas Alves, C.M.F., and Fr. Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F., be respected by every forthcoming Portuguese Provincial along the years.

As we say in English, "Beggars are not choosers." But first, it is my wish that these Claretians of Perpetual Adoration may have eventually in Fátima their own house and grounds, built at no expense to the Province, with money coming from outside of Portugal. I like to purchase immediately the grounds for this building since prices are constantly going up in Fátima, more than anywhere else in the world. As stated, these grounds will be purchased by donations given to me by Claretian benefactors in the United States. Second, that their superior should be elected secretly by all the members of the group with a majority of votes (at least by 2/3), and either confirmed or rejected by the Provincial Superior and his government. But if the election is rejected by Fr. Provincial and his government, Fr. General should be completely informed both by the Provincial and his government, and by each member of the Claretians of Perpetual Adoration, and let the Fr. General decide.

Very Reverend Fr. Provincial, after consulting the Superior and the two consultors of these members of our group of Perpetual Adoration, can count on some of our members for the needs of the Province, stating where and for how long they are going to be away. But once their mission is fulfilled they must come back to their monastery.

*Fr. Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.*